



AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Website: <http://marquette-mi.aauw.net> Facebook: [AAUW Marquette Branch](#)

Congratulations on a Record Breaking Book Sale!



Stopping to wave at the camera, while starting to sort books at the church.

AAUW-Marquette has been breaking through barriers for women and girls for decades, and this year we broke our record for number of books sold and processed at our Front Street Book Fair last week.

Renee Loew's skills for organization made two years of book donations into an inspiring event. We made \$4579.25, including \$345 from the Scholarship Book Bag sale. The photo of branch members waving while sorting books together is heartwarming.

In the spirit of breaking barriers, our **Scholarship Campaign** is marching full speed ahead. Please give generously. We must account for last year's pandemic hiatus.

Mark your calendar for our next AAUW program featuring *Women in the Arts* with the amazing Dr. Erin Colwitz on October 14 at 7:00pm.

Please obtain your coronavirus booster shot as soon as possible, stay healthy, and be happy.

Best,
Judy Puncochar,
AAUW-Marquette President

Next Meeting Thursday, October 14, 7 pm Supporting Women and Girls in Music



Please join us online at 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 14, for our monthly meeting and a

discussion with **Dr. Erin Colwitz,** Northern Michigan University's Director of Chors and president of the Michigan chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.

Erin was recently featured in a series titled "Women Choral Conductors and Clinicians You Need to Know," compiled by Janet Galván, recently retired director of choral activities at Ithaca College.

Erin is a guest conductor, lecturer, contest adjudicator and choral clinician throughout the United States. She has also presented and conducted internationally, including in Thailand and Greece. Her numerous grants have included funding a visit to South Africa for research on the African church music tradition in rural areas.

According to research published in May 2021 in The National Association for Music Education's *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*, women



Dr. Erin Colwitz

are often conductors in grade school and high school but are underrepresented conducting at the university level. After surveying women collegiate choral conductors, the study's author found, "Entering a

field that has required traditionally “masculine” traits was difficult with a lack of role models and representation. Mentorship and representation of women at all levels of choral conducting should be explored in future research to provide a potential formula for success in recruiting and retaining women in the profession. Navigating the profession unveiled challenges of balancing life and work, especially for those with children and families. Gender discrimination, although sometimes subtle, persisted in a majority of these women’s experiences.”

Please join us for a conversation about Erin’s career and discuss ways that we can support women and girls.

Connect via Zoom:

By computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82015582761?pwd=STRLUkt0Skx2MkZkOUNQd1BpRDdKZz09>

By phone: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 820 1558 2761

Passcode: aauw

Zoom session will begin at 6:45 pm. Program will begin at 7:00 pm. If you need assistance connecting, you can call or text Leslie Warren, 773-791-7803.

Remember...

*Econo receipts
NEVER EXPIRE*

Please save your Econo receipts and *mail them or drop them off* to Meredith Kulisheck, 617 W Hampton, Marquette or bring them to the next in-person meeting you attend. In the past, these brought in hundreds of dollars for us. During this time of the pandemic, we, like everyone and every business, are finding our funds down, even as needs are increasing.



Public Policy News

*I wish I were in Washington D.C.
Marching for Reproductive Rights.*

The spirit is willing, but the body is weak. This article is an effort to assuage my guilt.

Where have the hard-won gains gone? What is the status of reproductive rights in the U.S.? It is not a pretty picture. We are facing a turning point. Reproductive rights have been under attack for decades, but now they are hanging by a thread. The Supreme Court Ruling on the Texas law restricting reproductive rights is a telling blow. AAUW strongly condemned the U.S. Supreme Court’s refusal to suspend implementation of this law which outlaws abortions after 6 weeks of gestation. Since 1977 AAUW stands firmly on the premise that every woman has the right to make her own informed choice regarding her reproductive life.

The U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed the Women’s Health Protections Act 218 to 211. The bill protects the right to access abortions in the United States. It has little chance of passing in the Senate.

The Trump administration’s conservative judiciary made it easier for employers and schools to deny insurance coverage for contraception. We need to close loopholes in the Affordable Care Act and guarantee contraceptive coverage by eliminating religious and moral exemptions.

The federal Hyde Amendment blocks insurance coverage for abortion for the millions whose health care coverage comes from federal programs. So those on Medicaid, federal employees, military personnel, veterans, federal prisoners and detainees, Native Americans, Peace corps volunteers and low income residents of the District of Columbia are not covered for abortion procedures. One in four women will have an abortion in their lifetime but there are substantial financial and access barriers to face. The Hyde Amendment needs to be lifted. What do think the chances are that this Congress will do it?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration now limits access to medical abortions including telehealth. The Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH Woman ACT) would restore public insurance coverage of abortion

The Real Education for Healthy Youth Act would end funding of abstinence only education and fund comprehensive sex education programs.

The Supreme court appears poised to overturn *Roe v Wade*. Unlike the Pre-*Roe* world of back-alley abortions when thousands of women died from these illegal procedures, the Post-*Roe* world is a little different. We have still had abortion pills which are safe and effective and available online and through telehealth. Plan C is ensuring women know how to get these pills. In 2016 FDA loosened restrictions on mifepristone extending the time during which the drug could be used. Now it is 10 weeks or 77 days. The pill gained FDA approval 21 years ago.

Online demand for these pills surged after the Texas law went into effect. Self-managed abortion means ending a pregnancy outside a clinical setting by buying abortion pills. Five states: Arizona, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Nevada and Delaware have criminal prohibition of self-managed abortions. Nineteen states prohibit medication abortion via telemedicine and mailing pills. Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed a bill banning the abortion pill after 7 weeks of pregnancy and prohibits mailing abortion pills in the state.

I wish I could paint a prettier picture. *Roe* afforded reasonable accommodation. Under *Roe v Wade* during the first trimester (12 weeks) a state cannot regulate abortion beyond requiring that the procedure be performed by a licensed doctor in safe conditions. During the second trimester the state may regulate abortions if the regulations are reasonably related to the health of the pregnant woman. During the third trimester the states interest in protecting the potential human life outweighs the woman's right to privacy. The state may prohibit abortions unless the abortion is necessary to save the life of the mother. Eighty percent of Americans now support *Roe*. According to the Guttmacher Institute over 1 million illegal abortions occurred annually prior to *Roe*. About one million annually occur after *Roe*. These abortions occurred legally. The difference is that the number of women who died as a result of an abortion dropped dramatically. As Robin Lucas so eloquently stated in a recent AAUW advocacy piece: "Every person should have the ability to make their own informed decisions regarding their reproductive life.

It is beyond time for abortion to be secured legally, funded fully and equitably available for all who need it, when they need it, without shame or stigma."

I am writing this October 2. I wish I were marching in Washington. Rise up! Protect reproductive health and freedom.

Public Policy Representative
Karlyn Rapport

SCHOLARSHIP BOOK BAG SALE



NMU Scholarship "Just Ask" Campaign Update

Thank you! Your donations have been popping like fall colors. Since our kick-off in early September contributions have topped \$2,350. This is a fantastic start to doing one of the things we do best – provide scholarships and new opportunities to those women in need.

Our Financial Vice President, Ruth Ziel, also gave her time and talents to give a boost to our Scholarship Campaign. She made an array of **book bags** that were sold during our book sale with a total of \$335 in proceeds donated. Thank you, Ruth, for all you do.

The campaign officially closes in December, although contributions are accepted throughout the year.

Please make your scholarship donation check payable to AAUW-Marquette. Memo: AAUW Scholarship. Mail to Ruth Ziel, 734 Lakewood Lane, Marquette, MI 49855

Les Bek, NMU Scholarship Campaign

The Front Street Book Fair is now one for the books

First of all, sorry about the pun in the title.

As you might have heard or hopefully were able to witness, the Front Street Book Fair was a booming success and received a near record turnout and sales volume for the with our new partner for the sale, the Friends of Peter White Public Library.



You can see from the smiling faces in the photos that many laughs were had before, during and after the sale. In addition, new ideas to improve efficiency



were implemented to streamline the process--**the sorting process was finished one day early thanks to the energetic volunteers who lent a hand AND we were even able to rescue a book donated in error, only to return it to its happy owner.**



In addition to record sales, the Front Street Book Fair included extra events took place in front of smaller than hoped for audiences, but the workshops were interesting, informative, and highly entertaining nonetheless.

This year's book sale brigade definitely could have used many more hands before the event and for clean-up, especially this year as we had difficulty with finding good homes for the remaining books. Some of the unsold books were recycled or contributed to charity shops, the county jail, Jacobetti Veterans Home, local free lending libraries within the county, nonprofit groups, area public libraries as well as the local library in beautiful Presque Isle near my family's cottage. (I will load them up in my car to drive them south whereby they will be sold to earn money for this rural library's programs and activities-I just couldn't recycle them.)

All in all, I know it is never too late to start planning, so I will leave by saying the next AAUW Book Sale is only seven months away! Some of the ideas



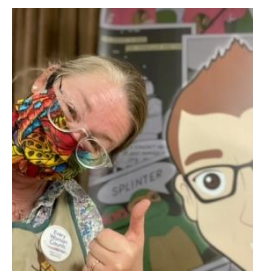
for the next sale are to have a drive through drop off at the church allowing the book sorters to sort the books before they are even stacked in categories on tables BEFORE the sale and to implement an early recycling of aged or not so salable titles. In addition, I feel it is so important to seek a core group of additional volunteers from outside the AAUW community to continue a sale of this caliber.



So, for now, I ask you to enjoy the many fun pictures from the 2021 sale and when it is announced, set aside a week in April, to lend a hand and of course ask your friends and family to save their gently read books, games, and puzzles for the 2022 April sale.

Renee Leow, Book Sale Chair







The Old Barn

Special Section

Puncochar family farm

Adventures in Nebraska



Coyote visitor to Puncochar family farm

We have fewer rabbits and bunnies hopping around the Puncochar family farm. A coyote was roaming near our barn and along the railroad tracks on the weekend of Saturday, October 2, 2021. Our flock of 11 wild turkeys and herd of 17 deer might attract coyotes, but the plethora of bunnies is more likely. The howling at night is amazing.



Senny Alwasilah on tractor



Senny Alwasilah with Dee (seated) and Judy Puncochar

That same weekend, two Indonesian Fulbright scholars visited the farm along with participants in a tractor parade featuring 17 old-fashioned tractors. The tractor drivers toured our 160-year-old barn and ate my sister's homemade Czech kolaches. Dr. Senny Alwasilah, a creative writer from Bandung, Indonesia, ate kolaches atop a tractor. One tractor pulled a fully functional, albeit unoccupied, outhouse. Attendees

varied in age from 4 months to 94 years. The tractor parade was gender fair. **More than half of Nebraska farms are owned by women.**



"Alice" Chalmers



Outhouse hauling



Tractor with toy tractor